

GIBBS BUILDING (Commercial Building)  
18 Biltmore Avenue  
Ashville  
Buncombe County  
North Carolina

HABS NO. NC-334

HABS  
NC,  
11-ASHV,  
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Department of the Interior  
Southeast Region  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

STATE North Carolina	COUNTY Buncombe	TOWN OR VICINITY Asheville
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) GIBBS BUILDING		HABS NO. NC-334
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 18 Biltmore Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) Circa 1898; Deed of A.D. Cooper	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) One of Asheville's few remaining turn-of-the-century commercial structures. This building was constructed as a grocery. It later housed clothing and furniture.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Minimal commercial classical.		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Exterior brick bearing walls on uncoursed rubble stone foundation; wood frame within.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular, first floor and basement 140' x 33'; second story 33' x 70'. Skylight in first floor begins approx. 73' from front.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Second floor facade contains 6 narrow round arched windows with radiating and slightly projecting voussoirs of brick. A Greek cross of brick is centered beneath the parapet which has a lightly pedimented central bay as has # 16. Store front of 1934 has been removed and replaced with modern aluminum and plate glass.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Interior two large rooms, one to each floor. All interior features including stair have been removed. Skylight has been removed and opening covered with plywood.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Original facade replaced in 1934 when Biltmore Avenue was widened. Present facade at second floor level is a part of a continuous facade joining six brick commercial structures, all stylistically alike although of varying sizes.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Vacant and deteriorating. Window glass missing and inhabited by pigeons.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Shared party wall with # 16 Biltmore Avenue. Documentation for this structure was prepared by the Dept. of Planning and the Historic Resources Commission in compliance with a Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Buncombe County, NC, inventory of historic environment, Historic Resources Com., 1981 Asheville Downtown Historic District, National Register of Historic Places, 1979		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Carolyn A. Humphries, Director, Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County Carol Pennell Alberice, Dept. of Planning City of Asheville		DATE June 18, 1985